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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of forwarding packets in a communication system having multiple incoming service interfaces and multiple output service interfaces for providing service to multiple distinct and isolated user networks, said method comprising:
 - ~~maintaining providing said system with~~ multiple forwarding rules, said forwarding rules based on routing topology and policing information relevant to each of said distinct and isolated user networks;
 - receiving said packets at one of said incoming service interfaces;
 - selecting an appropriate forwarding rule based on a source address in said packets; and
 - forwarding said packets to one of said output service interfaces, the decision as to which output service interface to forward the packets to being based on a destination address in said packets and information in said ~~forwarding rules~~ selected forwarding rule.
2. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein said ~~services~~ service interfaces support realms, each realm relating to a specific instance of an internetworking service function.
3. (previously amended) The method as defined in claim 2 wherein said specific instance is a public Internet access service.
4. (previously amended) The method as defined in claim 2 wherein said specific instance is a virtual private network (VPN) service.
5. (previously amended) The method as defined in claim 4 wherein said VPN service is a bridged and/or routed connectivity service.
6. (previously amended) The method as defined in claim 4 wherein said VPN service is a network layer connectivity service.

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7. (previously amended) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein said communication system includes an ATM transport fabric.
8. (currently amended) A packet forwarding entity for a communication system comprising:
- a plurality of distinct and isolated user networks;
 - multiple service interfaces providing instances of service to one of said specific distinct and isolated user networks;
 - multiple route servers for calculating multiple ~~forwarded~~ forwarding rules relating to instances of service to which said service interfaces belong based on routing, topology and policing information; and
 - edge forwarders to direct said service interfaces to user networks based on information in said forwarding rules.
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (currently amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 8 wherein said service interfaces related to physical and logical connections.
12. (previously amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 11 wherein said logical connections include multiple traffic flows from one or more ingress ports.
13. (currently amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 8 wherein said one of said instances of service ~~services~~ is an internetworking service function.
14. (previously amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 13 wherein said internetworking service function is a Public Internet access service.

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15. (previously amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 13 wherein said internetworking service function is a virtual private network (VPN) service.
16. (previously amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 15 wherein said VPN service is a bridged and/or routed connectivity service.
17. (currently amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 16 wherein said internetworking service function is ~~functions are~~ provided over an ATM network.
18. (currently amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 16 wherein said internetworking service function supports ~~devices support~~ multiple protocols.
19. (currently amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 18 wherein said internetworking service function provides ~~devices provide~~ services at both the packet and frame levels.
20. (currently amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 19 wherein said internetworking service function is ~~services are~~ managed by a single service provider.
21. (currently amended) The packet forwarding entity as defined in claim 18 wherein said multiple protocols include Multi-protocol over ATM (MPOA) service via a MPOA client lookup cache management function.
22. (cancelled)